

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02  
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 DOEE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 PA-01 /123 W  
-----004554 071337Z /50

O 071323Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6376  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 07378

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, EG, IS  
SUBJ: AMOCO EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 6852, (B) STATE 56357, (C) TEL AVIV 2970

1. NORMAN RUBASH, AMOCO/EGYPT MANAGER, INFORMED US MORNING MARCH 7 THAT DURING PREVIOUS NIGHT TWO ISRAELI GUNBOATS HAD HARRASSED AMOCO-OWNED RIG 511 AT NEW LOCATION IN SOUTHERN GULF OF SUEZ. DETAILS OF INCIDENT AS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO AMOCO FOLLOW. USUAL PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATION WITH RAS SHUKAIR AND RIG ITSELF EXIST SO THAT AMOCO STILL DOES NOT HAVE COMPLETE PICTURE OF WHAT HAPPENED. RUBASH HAS SENT REP TO RAS SHUKAIR WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PROCEED TO VESSEL TO GET FULL REPORT.

2. AS AMOCO PREVIOUSLY INFORMED US, RIG 511 AND ASSOCIATED WORK BOATS MOVED SOUTH TO NEW LOCATION DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS MARCH 6, ARRIVING AT MARKER BOUY ABOUT  
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8 P.M. MARKER BOUY HAD BEEN PLACED PREVIOUS FEW DAYS ON SITE OF NEW WELL APPARENTLY WITHOUT INCIDENT. FOLLOWING STANDARD PRACTICE VESSEL VERIFIED POSITION WITH DRILLING PLAN AND SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT PREPARED TO LAY ANCHORS. RUBASH SAID THAT PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD ORDERED ANCHOR CHAINS ON EASTERN SIDE OF RIG SHORTENED SO THERE WOULD BE REDUCED POSSIBILITY OF EVEN INADVERTENT CROSS-

ING INTO ISRAELI CONTROLLED ZONE. ABOUT ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE OF FIRST WORK BOAT ISRAELI GUNBOATS APPEARED AND CIRCLED THE 511; NEITHER VESSEL IDENTIFIED ITSELF. AS FIRST WORK BOAT DEPARTED TO BEGIN LAYING ANCHORS, ISRAELI PATROL BOATS APPROACHED RIG AND, USING BULL HORN, INFORMED 511 CAPTAIN HE WAS IN ISRAELI WATERS AND DEMANDED THAT HE MOVE 2 MILES TO THE WEST. AMOCO HAS NO FURTHER DETAILS OF EXCHANGE WITH PATROL BOATS. RIG 511 APPEARS TO HAVE COMPLIED IMMEDIATELY WITH DEMAND AND MOVED 3 KILOMETERS WEST. 511 CAPTAIN RADIOED CAIRO FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

3. AT 0915 CAIRO TIME MARCH 7, AFTER MEETING WITH KEY AMOCO PERSONNEL, AMOCO MANAGER ORDERED RIG 511 BACK ON LOCATION. RUBASH SAID THEY HAD DOUBLE CHECKED LOCATION AND ARE CONFIDENT IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED WATERS. RUBASH COMPLAINED THAT WITH ISRAELIS . PREVENTING AMOCO FROM WORKING EASTERN AREA OF CONCESSION, AMOCO CANNOT AFFORD TO BACK DOWN IN FACE OF ATTEMPT NOW TO SCARE IT AWAY FROM WORKING IN EGYPTIAN-CONTROLLED WATERS. AS OF DISPATCH OF THIS MESSAGE, THERE WAS NO FURTHER WORD FROM RIG 511.

4. EGPC CHAIRMAN LEITHY WAS AWARE OF INCIDENT WHEN RUBASH TALKED WITH HIM MORNING MARCH 7. LEITHY DID NOT INDICATE GOE PLANNING ANY FOLLOW-UP ACTION. RUBASH  
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SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH LEITHY LATER SAME OAY.

5. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, RUBASH EMPHASIZED NEITHER HE NOR AMOCO REQUESTING ANY USG ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME. HIS IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS SAFETY OF AMOCO VESSEL WITH MORE THAN 40 AMERICANS ABOARD AND PRINCIPLE THAT AMOCO PROCEED WITH NORMAL OPERATIONS IN EGYPTIAN-CONTROLLED WATERS. HE HOPED ISRAELIS WOULD NOT HARASS RIG FURTHER SO THAT IT COULD GO BACK TO LOCATION AND DRILLING COULD GET UNDERWAY. IF ISRAELIS PERSIST, RUBASH SAID HE IS SURE CHICAGO OFFICE WILL ASK FOR DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE. HE STATED AGAIN THAT SITE IS WEST OF ISRAELI-CONTROLLED ZONE AND HE AT LOSS AS TO WHY RIG ENCOUNTERED INTERFERENCE.

6. WE WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION FROM RIG 511. ASSUME ENOUGH TIME HAS NOW ELAPSED FOR INFORMATION ON AMOCO DRILLING SITE TO HAVE REACHED ISRAELI MILITARY IN GULF OF SUEZ AND HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER INCIDENT. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATORY DRILLING, GULFS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 07 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMOCO EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ  
**TAGS:** ENRG, EG, IS, AMOCO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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